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ABSTRACT

This document contains a self-assessment tool allowing colleges to measure themselves against the criteria for an ideal learning college and identify where to focus their efforts for improvement. The tool consists of nine sections, each outlining a different area crucial to the functioning of learning colleges. Section 1 focuses on the learning process marked by the aim of putting learning first in all activities in which the college is engaged. Section 2 discusses the organization of learning content with a learning-centered approach. Section 3 emphasizes the importance of recruiting qualified learning facilitators committed to learning-centered education. Section 4 describes the ways in which learning specialists complement the role of learning facilitators and provide expertise to the institution. Section 5 considers the assessment of student learning outcomes as a way to demonstrate change in knowledge, competence, and behavior. Institutional assessment is also included in this section. Section 6 calls for the acknowledgment of learners as having primary responsibility for their learning and providing input into the design of the learning process and the assessment of outcomes. Section 7 reviews the organization of the learning college in terms of learner services, systems and procedures, and structures. Section 8 focuses on college leadership. Finally, Section 9 underscores the importance of a college culture that supports learning, involving paying attention to morale issues among employees, labor relations climate, and learner satisfaction with the learning environment. (KS)

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